

REMARKS

1. An Office Action requiring Applicants to elect a single invention for prosecution on the merits was mailed May 18, 2007. Claims 20-72 were last presented for examination. By the foregoing Amendments, claims 73-76 have been added. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 20-76 will be pending in this application. Of these fifty-seven (57) claims, four (4) claims (claims 20, 38, 56 and 73) are independent claims. In response to the Election/Restriction Requirement, Applicants submit this Response to Election/Restriction Requirement.

Election of Species

2. The Examiner has required the election of a single species for prosecution on the merits. The Examiner alleged that the originally filed claims are directed to the following three (3) patentably distinct species:

- I.* Species A as seen in Figs. 4A-7A; concave shaped region near distal end of arm.
- II.* Species B as seen in Fig. 8A; looped shaped region near distal end of arm
- III.* Species C as seen in Fig. 8B; forked shaped region near distal end of arm.

No generic claim was identified.

Claim Amendments

3. As noted, no generic claim was identified. Applicants have added new independent claim 73 as a generic claim, and dependent claims 74-76. Dependent claim 74 is directed to Species A, claim 75 is directed to Species B and claim 76 is directed to Species C.

Provisional Election

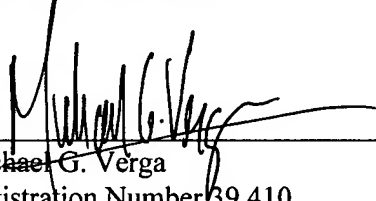
4. In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.143 and MPEP 818.03(b), Applicants hereby provisionally elect, with traverse, the claims of Species 1, namely, claims 20-37, and 74. Applicants also elect generic claim 73.

5. Applicants do not intend to dedicate non-elected claims to the public and reserve the right to file divisional applications for the subject matter covered by the non-elected claims.
6. The inventorship for the invention of the elected claims is the same as the inventorship of record in this application.

Conclusion

7. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael G. Verga", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael G. Verga
Registration Number 39,410
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
1875 Eye Street
Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 756-4357
(202) 293-6229 (FAX)

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